

Senate File 189 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 189

BY FEENSTRA

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the mechanism by which a county may
2 consolidate the functions of certain county officers.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 331.323, subsection 1, paragraphs b and
2 c, Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

3 ~~b. If a petition of electors equal in number to twenty-five~~
4 ~~percent of the votes cast for the county office receiving the~~
5 ~~greatest number of votes at the preceding general election~~
6 ~~is filed with the auditor~~ the board of supervisors adopts a
7 resolution for officer consolidation no later than five working
8 days before the filing deadline for candidates for county
9 offices as specified in section 44.4 for the next general
10 election, the board shall direct the commissioner of elections
11 to call an election for the purpose of voting on the ~~proposal~~
12 proposition. If the ~~petition~~ resolution contains more than one
13 proposal for combining duties, each proposal shall be listed on
14 the ballot as a separate issue. If the majority of the votes
15 cast is in favor of a proposal, the board shall take all steps
16 necessary to combine the duties as specified in the ~~petition~~
17 resolution.

18 ~~c. The petition~~ resolution shall state the offices and
19 positions to be combined and the offices or positions to be
20 abolished. Offices and positions that have been combined may
21 be subsequently separated ~~by a petition and election~~ in the
22 same manner as provided in paragraph "b".

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill relates to the mechanism by which a county may
25 consolidate the functions of certain county officers.

26 Current law allows a county to consolidate the duties of 11
27 county officers or employees, including the sheriff, treasurer,
28 recorder, auditor, medical examiner, general assistance
29 director, county care facility administrator, commission on
30 veterans affairs, director of social welfare, county assessor,
31 or county weed commissioner. The county may consolidate two or
32 more of these officers or employees.

33 Current law requires that in order for a county to combine
34 the duties of any of these officers, a petition of eligible
35 electors equal to 25 percent of votes cast for the county

1 office receiving the most votes at the most recent general
2 election must be filed with the county auditor no later than
3 five days before the deadline for filing nomination papers
4 for county office. If such a petition is filed, the board of
5 supervisors is required to direct the commissioner of elections
6 to call an election to vote on the proposal. The proposal is
7 adopted if a simple majority of voters approves it.

8 This bill would transfer the authority to submit a proposal
9 for combining duties from a petition process to adoption of
10 a resolution by the board of supervisors. If the board of
11 supervisors adopts a resolution to combine duties, then the
12 board must direct the commissioner of elections to call an
13 election to vote on the proposition.